KJV Synonymic-Parallelism as Opposed to Synonymous Parallelism: The Compound Solution

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This is an addition to my paper, "Synonymic Parallelism in Syntax Units of the KJV Bible".

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence demonstrates rapid learning capabilities. Only a few weeks ago a Google search for "synonymic parallelism" would continually result in "*synonymous* parallelism." It's much the same with DuckDuckGo[1] which also strictly attributes the term to the poetic books. After I challenged the results, Google AI quickly adapted and has since refined its answer to "*synonymic* parallelism" (though again, still attributing the term primarily to the poetic books):
https://www.google.com/search?q=synonymic+parallelism&rlz=1C1CHBD_enCA1013CA1013&oq=&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqCQgBEEUYOxjCAzIJCAAQRRg7GMIDMgkIARBFGDsYwgMyCQgCEEUYOxjCAzIJCAMQRRg7GMIDMgkIBBBFGDsYwgMyCQgFEEUYOxjCAzIJCAYQRRg7GMIDMgkIBxBFGDsYwgPSAQkyNjE0ajBqMTWoAgiwAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

"Synonymic parallelism is a literary and rhetorical device where two or more parallel lines or clauses repeat the same idea using different words, effectively reinforcing the message. This technique is common in Hebrew poetry and involves a second line restating or closely paralleling the meaning of the first, using equivalent but not identical vocabulary to help the reader meditate on and absorb the full significance of the statement.

How it works

Repetition of Idea: The core concept is the same in each parallel line.

Different Wording: The specific words and phrases are varied to avoid monotony.

Reinforcement: By restating the idea, synonymous parallelism amplifies its importance and depth.

Similar Syntax: Often, the grammatical structure of the parallel lines is similar, enhancing the connection between the ideas.

[1] DuckDuckGo search, <https://www.sermoninfo.com/7-types-of-parallelisms-in-hebrew-poetry.html>

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Example

- **"The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it"**(Psalm 24:1).
    - Here, "the earth" and "the world" are synonymous, and "all it contains" and "those who dwell in it" express the same concept of inhabitants and contents.
- **"Save me, O Lord, from lying lips, and from deceitful tongues"**(Psalm 120:2).
    - "Lying [2]lips" and "deceitful tongues" are different ways of saying the same thing, emphasizing the danger of false speech.
- **"Your maker is your husband," and "the holy one of Israel is your redeemer"**(Isaiah 54:5).
    - "Maker" and "holy one of Israel" are synonymous, and similarly, "husband" (*Bridegroom in the Book of Revelation) and "redeemer" are used to convey a parallel concept of a divine provider and protector.

*****My notes

Overview: Distinguishing between Synonymous and Synonymic

Within the field of biblical studies, the concept of *synonymous* parallelism has been traditionally confined to the poetic books of the Bible: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. In these contexts, synonymous parallelism is generally understood as imitation, duplication, or even direct copying of ideas or expressions. This approach focuses on identifying repeated or mirrored concepts, often for poetic or rhetorical effect like *Dirges*[3] and the like.

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[3] Google AI: A Hebrew dirge, known as a kinah (or plural kinnot), is a poem or song expressing deep sorrow, lament, and grief for the dead or for national tragedy. These compositions, which are found both in the Hebrew Bible (like the book of Lamentations) and in later Jewish traditions, are often chanted as part of mourning rituals, particularly during the solemn fast day of Tisha B'Av.

> Google AI review: “While parallelism in Hebrew and Jewish circles existed inherently in their ancient texts, the *identification* of this literary device as a formal concept was a much later development, with recognition beginning in the 12th century with Ibn Ezra, followed by Kimchi in the 13th century, and then formally defined and popularized by Robert Lowth in 1753 with his book *De Sacra Poesi Hebraeorum*. Therefore, the ancient Hebrew texts contain the poetic device itself, but scholars in the medieval period and later formally recognized and described it.”[4]

In contrast, *synonymic*-parallelism refers to a literary phenomenon that is not limited to discreet sections of the Bible. Instead, its scope is much broader, encompassing the entire biblical corpus, extra-Biblical (Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal) and other texts, demonstrating its presence in a wide array of literature. It is important to distinguish conventional understanding from this broader and more complex phenomenon encompassing synonyms, synonymous, and synonymy. It points to a deeper, coded structure within biblical and other texts to describe a highly intricate cryptogram.

Historical Roots and Unique Nature of Synonymic-Parallelism

The origins of KJV synonymic-parallelism may extend far beyond the confines of biblical and extrabiblical literature, appearing to have originated with ancient epics such as Gilgamesh and its Akkadian and Babylonian counterparts. The historical continuity of the parallelism serves to underscore its pervasiveness across a wide array of literary traditions, including many works that are commonly regarded as unrelated.

The intricate complexity observed in synonymic-parallelism is not merely a matter of similarity in word choice or theme. Rather, it signals a wholly distinct form of writing—one whose interconnectedness might even be regarded as impossible within the boundaries of conventional literary forms.

Despite the vast differences in time, culture, and context separating the scribes who contributed to the biblical and extrabiblical texts, the continuity of intricate parallel constructs persisted. This phenomenon suggests that the underlying literary frameworks, though perhaps not explicitly

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[4]<https://www.google.com/search?q=when+was+parallelism+%28chiasm%2C+etc.%29+first+identified+in+Hebrew%2FJewish+circles%3F&sca_esv=f3826a3017f5c801&rlz=1C1CHBD_enCA1013CA1013&ei=kCncaO_5Nfzx0PEPhtbn6A8&ved=0ahUKEwjvgfzJloGQAxX8ODQIHQbrGf0Q4dUDCBA&uact=5&oq=when+was+parallelism+%28chiasm%2C+etc.%29+first+identified+in+Hebrew%2FJewish+circles%3F&gs_lp=Egxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAiTndoZW4gd2FzIHBhcmFsbGVsaXNtIChjaGlhc20sIGV0Yy4pIGZpcnN0IGlkZW50aWZpZWQgaW4gSGVicmV3L0pld2lzaCBjaXJjbGVzP0jE4wFQAFif4AFwD3gBkAEDmAGDA6AB02GqAQkxMS43Ni41LjK4AQPIAQD4AQGYAkgApVEwgIGEAAYBxgewgIKEAAYgAQYQxiKBcICCBAuGIAEGLEDwgIFEAAYgATCAgUQLhiABMICCxAuGIAEGLEDGIMBwgIXEC4YgAQYsQMYlwUY3AQY3gQY4ATYAQHCAgsQABiABBiRAhiKBcICCBAAGIAEGLEDwgIOEAAYgAQYsQMYgwEYigXCAgsQABiABBiGAxiKBcICChAAGIAEGEYY+wHCAgYQABgWGB7CAhYQABiABBhGGPsBGJcFGIwFGN0E2AEBwgIFECEYoAHCAgUQIRifBcICCBAAGBYYChgewgIIEAAYogQYiQXCAgUQABjvBcICBxAhGKABGArCAgQQIRgVwgIFECEYkgPCAgQQIRgKmAMAugYGCAEQARgUkgcIOC41My40LjGgB8DIArIHCDQuNTMuNC4xuAeHRMIHBzguNDMuMTXIB5IB&sclient=gws-wiz-serp>

recognized or understood by the scribes themselves, were preserved through inherited conventions and rigorous established traditions of the copying of ancient texts.

Many scribes were likely engaging in practices that had become deeply embedded within the religious cultures of their communities. These practices were transmitted through careful replication of previous texts, adherence to stylistic norms, and commitment to faithful reproduction of sacred writings. As a result, even without conscious awareness of the complexity of the hidden literary aspects, scribes contributed to the maintenance of the synonymic-parallelism by strictly adhering to the models set before them.

This deliberate preservation underscores the reliability and dedication of ancient scribal techniques. It is a testament to scribal tradition in textual transmission. The elaborate writing observed in biblical literature is thus not necessarily the product of deliberate design by individual Semitic scribes, dedicated though they were, but rather a testament to scribal traditions of the time.

Revival of Scribal Traditions

Although the original ordinances established by ancient scribes may have been altered or even lost through the passage of generations, scribal traditions resurfaced in unexpected ways and times. The resurgence of such practices was not accidental; it was the result of dedicated scholarly collaboration and methodical reconstruction. Through the rigorous efforts of many scholars, earlier scribal conventions were restored to prominence, an achievement that ultimately culminated in the production of the 1769 King James Version (KJV) Bible.

The Enduring Enigma of Synonymic Consistency

Despite the successful restoration of ancient scribal methods, the precise means by which this translated into the remarkable synonymic consistency observed in the KJV Bible remains a profound mystery. This phenomenon is evident not only within the KJV itself, but also in a broader literary lineage that spans from ancient Mesopotamian epics to the Bible and Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal writings. The consistent use of synonymic-parallelism across these diverse text's points to an underlying unique literary device, yet the mechanisms that enabled such cohesion—across time, culture, and language—are mysterious.

Scholarly Accompaniments to the Bible

The King James Bible version that we have today is the 1769 or Oxford Standard Edition. It is the result of numerous editions before it; dates, places and people have been verified by academics.[5] This final

[5]"What professional translators know is that the beliefs and prejudices and hopes of the translators affect the translation in both conscious and unconscious ways.:, <https://www.academia.edu/30800640/The_Theology_of_the_KJV_Translators_docx>

edition resulted in a highly consistent translation evident in the detailed work of James Strong who in 1890 published his "Exhaustive Concordance of the KJV Bible".

Strong's monumental work meticulously alphabetized and indexed every word found in the King James Bible, providing references to book name, chapter, verse and line number (e.g, Genesis 1:1), along with the brief context within the verse/line where each word occurs. Its primary value lay in its ability to expand upon the meaning of Hebrew words via this highly organized system that allowed users to trace single word meanings throughout the Bible. This facilitated a deeper understanding of translation and linguistic nuances. It quickly became an indispensable tool for generations of dedicated Bible students, and the precursor of online Bible concordances today.

Despite its comprehensive nature and the clarity with which it presented word occurrences in diverse books, the more complex assembly—specifically, "strings of words forming parallel constructs" (synonymic-parallelism)—remained overshadowed by the focus on individual words and their meaning in different contexts.

The Rich Text Interpretation

The diversity of synonymic parallels within biblical and other literary texts creates a rich and intricate puzzle very different from the limited structure of poetic synonymous parallelism. Woven through layers of word choice and expression, the creativity is not merely a matter of word variation; rather, it reflects a sophisticated literary technique. This highly complex method appears to be intentional in form and interpretative in purpose.

Modern Recognition: Human and AI Perspectives

Awareness and methodological shifts can dramatically alter our understanding of ancient literary structures. Artificial intelligence, once instructed to recognize these patterns, was able to rapidly identify and analyse synonymic relationships, as illustrated in the opening example.

Yet despite the prevalence of synonymic-parallelism in biblical texts, many individuals continue to struggle to perceive its presence. One contributing factor may be the limited utility of online concordances, which although very helpful in some respects, fail to illuminate the deeply complex synonymic structures unless users possess prior awareness of the feature. As a result, the subtle patterns remain largely obscure to the casual reader.

Another significant reason for this oversight may be the human brain's inherent tendency toward "selective seeing." This psychological process leads individuals to focus on familiar or *expected* patterns, frequently causing them to miss details that do not align with their existing perceptions.

Consequently, even when synonymic-parallelism is present, it can go undetected or be dismissed as unimportant.[6]

> "Selective seeing," or more formally **selective perception**, is the psychological process where people filter, select, and interpret information from their environment in a way that aligns with their pre-existing attitudes, beliefs, and goals. This automatic and often unconscious process allows individuals to focus on relevant stimuli while blocking out others, but it can also lead to biased interpretations and a skewed view of reality.

Clarifying Terminology in Synonymic Constructs of Compound Verses

In my previous paper I referred to tautology to describe synonymy (repeating the same expression using different words). Upon reflection, this feature of *restructuring* written ideas within the context of a compound verse/line (but also occurring outside of that), is too complex to be an error and therefore, we can presume that it was intentional. When the complexity of these synonymic relationships is overlooked, much of the interpretative value embedded within the text remains obscured.

“Compound verses/lines” more appropriately applies to a phrase or brief sentence often separated by a colon or semicolon, or as demonstrated in the initial examples, a comma.

> **Psa 24:1**
>
> [[A Psalm of David.]] The earth *is* the LORD'S,
> and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
>
> Synonymous and Synonymy:
>
> - The earth is the LORD’S, and the fullness thereof
> - ;
> - The world, and they that dwell therein

[6]<https://www.google.com/search?q=the+behavior+of+individuals+to+selectively+interpret+what+one+sees+on+the+basis+of+one%27s+interest+experience+and+attitudes+is+known+as+selective+perception&rlz=1C1CHBD_enCA1013CA1013&oq=%22Selective+seeing,%22+or+more+formally%C2%A0selective+perception,+is%C2%A0the+psychological+process+where+people+filter,+select,+and+interpret+information+from+their+environment+in+a+way+that+aligns+with+their+preexisting+attitudes,+beliefs,+and+goals.+This+automatic+and+often+unconscious+process+allows+individuals+to+focus+on+relevant+stimuli+while+blocking+out+others,+but+it+can+also+lead+to+biased+interpretations+and+a+skewed+view+of+reality.%C2%A0&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOdIBCTI5NDhqMGoxNagCCLACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwis-MeS1IGQAxVJweYEHfMrL2MQi_sDegQIDxAD>

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Synonyms:

- earth
- world

In the subsequent sections of Psalm 24, several key words and phrases are used interchangeably, highlighting their synonymic relationships.

https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/psa/24/2/s_502002

Psa 24:2

For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Synonymous/Synonymy:

- founded it upon the seas
- established it upon the floods

Synonyms:

- founded
- established

- seas
- floods

The same interpreting strategy can be applied to the following:

Psa 24:3

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

Psa 24:4

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

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Psa 24:5

He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Psa 24:6

This *is* the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

Psa 24:7

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Psa 24:8

Who *is* this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Psa 24:9:

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

*Psalm 24:7 repeats 24:9 with very slight differences:

- and be ye lift up
- even lift them up

Psa 24:10

Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he *is* the King of glory. Selah.

*Compound verses/lines often answer their own question

*The following from an entirely different Book of the Bible directly corresponds to Psalms 24:7 & 9:

Job 38:17

Have the **gates** of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the **doors** of the shadow of death?

Enhancing Synonymy in Compound Verses: Visual Restructuring Using a Different Analytical Method

As demonstrated by the previous examples, a compound verse or line typically contains two distinct parts, but some verses can have three, and occasionally four, segments.

> **Heb 6:1**
>
> Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

- Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ let us go on unto perfection**;**
- Not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and faith toward God

While restructuring compound verses like the previous examples allows for easier analysis and comparison, visually it fails to highlight the full distinctiveness of each part and how they correspond. Important details can still be missed, especially if you're working through many examples at a time.

By systematically dissecting each segment in the following manner the often-subtle similarities and distinctions between the synonymous elements can be better appreciated. The following approach also allows for greater clarity and reinforces the complexity undetectable from general reading.

By considering the structure of compound verses in the following way, each part may be analysed both together and independently, enabling us to better see the synonymic alterations simultaneously. Furthermore, it provides a quick reference guide when searching for obscure or ambiguous synonyms or hidden synonymic phrases that correspond to the same topic. The following visual method is helpful to accurately reduce a compound verse/line into its synonymic components:

leaving	not laying again
the principles	the foundation
of the doctrine of Christ	of repentance from dead works, and faith toward God

The discovery of synonymic-parallelism was unexpected and slow to refine. After three decades of gathering evidence, what was once a matter of debate has now reached a point where closer examination is warranted. My accumulated research suggests that unlike religious interpretations,

synonymic-parallelism cannot be called coincidence, but a literary phenomenon constituting its own distinct language system.

See also my latest paper “Adulteries, Whoredoms and the Great Harlot: Corrupted Teachings of the Law and the Prophets”